

7. *Tragulus canescens terutus*, subsp. n.

Closely resembling *T. canescens* in coloration, but markedly smaller. The dark-coloured nape characteristic of *umbrinus*, Miller, entirely wanting.

Hab. Terutau Island, Straits of Malacca.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 9. 11. 1. 159. Original number 2438. Collected 26th October, 1909.

Seven specimens examined.

LXVIII.—*East African Forms of Arvicanthis abyssinicus.*

By R. C. WROUGHTON.

HAVING had occasion to lay out the specimens in the Natural History Museum of *Arvicanthis* from British Africa, I find that several well-marked local races can be distinguished. *Arvicanthus abyssinicus* was described by Rüppell from Simen and Shoa in Abyssinia. Besides cotypes, the Museum possesses quite a long series from many parts of Abyssinia. Thence to German East Africa, whence Matschie described his *A. neumanni* (a very much smaller animal), the only name I have been able to find is *nairobæ*, Allen. This is clearly a geographical race of *abyssinicus*, which it resembles in colour and from which it differs chiefly in size.

The additional forms I have been able to discriminate are: one from Naivasha, closely resembling *nairobæ*, its near neighbour, in size and colour, but easily separable by the shape of the skull; also a reddish colour variety from Unyoro, and a blackish one from Mt. Elgon.

Key to the Subspecies of A. abyssinicus.

- A. General colour greyish (near "hair-brown").
- a. Size larger; hind foot=30 mm., greatest length of skull=36. Hands and feet grey. (Abyssinia.) (1) *abyssinicus*, Rüpp. (s.s.)
 - b. Size smaller; hind foot=27 mm. or less, greatest length of skull=34 or less.
 - a'. Hands and feet grey; skull very broad and stoutly built, supra-orbital crests strongly marked. (Nairobi.) (2) *a. nairobæ*, Allen.
 - b. Hands and feet yellow; skull narrow, slenderly built, supraorbital crests much less developed. (Naivasha.) (3) *a. præceps*, subsp. n.

- B. General colour reddish (near "vandyke brown"). Hands and feet yellow. Size large; hind foot=31 mm. (Kisumu, Mount Elgon.) (4) *a. rubescens*, subsp. n.
- C. General colour blackish (near "seal-brown"). Hands and feet dark. Size large; hind foot=29 mm. (Masindi, Unyoro.) (5) *a. nubilans*, subsp. n.

(1) *Arvicanthis abyssinicus*, Rüpp.1842. *Mus abyssinicus*, Rüppell, Mus. Senck. iii. p. 104.

General colour-effect above pale "hair-brown"; individual hairs of back (10 mm. long) have basal two-thirds black and remainder "cream-buff." Dorsal median black stripe generally distinctly marked, never entirely absent. Tail dark above, pale below, rather short. Hands and feet grey.

Skull rather stout, supraorbital crests strongly marked, anteorbital plates broad, rounded.

Dimensions of an adult male:—

Head and body 140 mm.; tail 102; hind foot 29.

Skull: greatest length 36; basilar length 30; zygomatic breadth 19; nasals length 15; interorbital breadth 6; brain-case breadth 14; diastema 9.5; upper molar series 7.

More than a dozen specimens examined.

(2) *Arvicanthis abyssinicus nairobae*, Allen.1909. *Arvicanthis nairobae*, Allen, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. p. 168.

This form is coloured exactly as typical *abyssinicus*, but the grizzling is much finer. Smaller in size all round than the Abyssinian form. Hands and feet grey.

Skull broad in proportion to length, with, as Mr. Allen points out, the nasals expanded anteriorly; bullæ large, as in the Abyssinian form.

The following are measurements of a very old male from the Athi River:—

Head and body 133 mm.; tail 107; hind foot 27.

Skull: greatest length 34.5; basilar length 28; zygomatic breadth 19; nasals length 13.5; interorbital breadth 5; brain-case breadth 14; diastema 9; upper molar tooth-row 6.6.

Specimens from Machakos seem to belong to this form. It appears to differ from typical *abyssinicus* in little but its smaller size.

(3) *Arvicanthis abyssinicus præceps*, subsp. n.

Size rather smaller than in *nairobæ*; in colour quite resembling that form, but with the yellow hands and feet of *rubescens*.

Skull in length as in *nairobæ*; markedly narrower and more slightly built, bullæ conspicuously smaller, nasals rather shorter, not appreciably expanded.

Dimensions of type:—

Head and body 131 mm.; tail 113; hind foot 25.

Skull: greatest length 33; basilar length 28; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals length 12; interorbital breadth 4.5; brain-case breadth 12.5; diastema 8.5; upper molar tooth-row 6.5.

Hab. Naivasha.

Type. Very old male. B.M. no. 0.6.21.34. Original number 14. Collected 16th December, 1899, and presented to the Natural History Museum by Lord Delamere.

Easily distinguishable from *nairobæ*, which it closely resembles in colour, by its rather smaller size, yellow hands and feet, and much narrower and more slenderly built skull. In both *præceps* and *nairobæ* the median black dorsal stripe is practically absent.

(4) *Arvicanthis abyssinicus rubescens*, subsp. n.

General colour-effect above between "bistre" and "vandyke-brown." Length and colour-pattern of dorsal hairs as in typical *abyssinicus*, but the pale tips darker ("buff") and proportionally shorter, median dorsal stripe faint. Tail less densely clothed than in the type form. Hands and feet golden yellow.

Skull rather smaller in all details, much more slenderly built.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 139 mm.; tail 129; hind foot 31.

Skull: greatest length 34; basilar length 28; zygomatic breadth 17; nasals length 13; interorbital breadth 5; brain-case breadth 13.5; diastema 9.5; upper molar series 6.3.

Hab. Kibero, Unyoro.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 2.11.1.16. Original number 48. Collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge on 4th August, 1897.

A dozen specimens from localities in Unyoro examined. A series from Ankole and another from E. Ruwenzori seem to belong to this form. In proportion to the body, the tail

would seem to average rather longer in *rubescens* than in typical *abyssinicus*.

(5) *Arvicanthus abyssinicus nubilins*, subsp. n.

General colour-effect above "seal-brown"; individual dorsal hairs longer (12-13 mm.) than in the preceding forms, the pale tips at most 3 mm. long; median dorsal stripe absent. Tail proportionally longer than in *rubescens*, and even more markedly hairy than in typical *abyssinicus*. Hands and feet dark.

Skull stoutly built, but slightly smaller than in the type species; bulk markedly smaller, as small as, or even smaller than, in the Masindi form.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 145 mm.; tail 115; hind foot 29.

Skull: greatest length 33; basilar length 30; zygomatic breadth 18.6; nasals length 14; interorbital breadth 5.3; brain-case breadth 14.3; diastema 9; upper molar series 6.5.

Hab. Kisumu, B. E. Africa. Alt. 3600f.

Type. Adult ♂. Ruid Collection. Original number 102. Collected by R. Kemp, 12th August, 1909.

Eleven specimens examined. The grizzling is rather fine and the resulting dark colour of the animal renders its identification easy.

LXIX.—*New Muridæ from British East Africa.*

By R. C. WROUGHTON.

Tatera dundasi, sp. n.

A *Tatera* allied to *T. smithi* and *T. ruwenzorii*, but larger than either.

Fur long and soft (20-25 mm. on back). Ground-colour bright pinkish buff, much obscured with black in the dorsal region, much more so than in *ruwenzorii*, rather less so than in *smithi*, flanks bright salmon-buff, passing suddenly but without any distinct dividing line into pure white of belly.

Skull with long posterior palatal foramina as in *smithi* and all the African forms of the northern hemisphere; muzzle markedly longer than in either of those species.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 190 mm.; tail (damaged); hind foot 35; ear 21.